Synthesis Intro:

You will need to read the following short pieces

1. “Moral Perfection” by Benjamin Franklin (nonfiction, p. 21)

2. “Self Reliance” by Ralph Waldo Emerson (nonfiction, p. 25)

3. “They Live the Dream” by Dan Rather (nonfiction, p. 41)

4. “Lifelong Dreamer” by Mary-Beth McLaughlin (article, p. 46)

5. “Roberto Acuna Talks About Farm Workers” by Studs Terkel (nonfiction, p. 69)

6. “Nickel and Dimed (exerpt)” by Barbara Ehrenreich (nonfiction, p. 73)

7. “Keynote Address” by Barack Obama (speech, p. 84)

8. “The Right to Fail” by William Zinsser (nonfiction, p. 87)

After you have read 3 of the shorter selections listed above, write an essay that responds to this prompt:

**Success is a vital ingredient of the American Dream. Use the listed sources and your own observations to inform your personal definition of the American Dream. Choose an issue related to success and each person’s potential to achieve it. Then use that issue to write an essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies the statement that America still provides access to the American Dream to all.**